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REYKJAVIK, Iceland (P).—To those who think it needs an optimistic to settle in Iceland, the American-run international airport at Keflavik is just loaded with such people. Out of approximately 400 Americans, some 115 have worked on this base since 1947 and earlier. And out of the 115, 46 have Icelandic wives.

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Priest Who Survived A-Bomb Plans to Return to Japan

"We were told to bring you back for a decent burial." These were the depressing words a young Jesuit missionary heard as he was being evacuated from Hiroshima 12 hours after it was atom-bombed on August 6, 1945.

The Rev. Hubert F. Schiffer, a smiling, boyish-looking priest of German descent, last night told 1,000 members of the Men's Club of Nativity Parish and several distinguished guests of his atom bomb experience.

It was a hot summer morning shortly after 8 o'clock. Father Schiffer had said mass, eaten breakfast and picked up the paper to read about the most recent Japanese naval victories, "which were getting closer to Japan all the time."

People were on their way to work. Thousands of women with their children were crowding back into the city after spending the night in the hills for quiet and safety.

"Suddenly there was a great light, burning and blinding. Then a second of awful silence. Followed by a tremendous concussion. I felt I was flying around hitting things, and flying things were hitting me. I fell among the debris, blinded, stunned and deafened."

"I came to with my head buzzing, unable to see anything. I was surprised no more bombs were exploding, no sirens were wailing, and no people were screaming. I spoke a few words and found my hearing intact."

"That silence was the most frightening thing of all—complete, vast and empty. I thought it was the end of the world."

Father Schiffer went on to explain that, as his eyesight gradually came back, he found his rectory a shambles, himself cut in dozens of places with glass and wooden splinters.



Rev. Schiffer.

He made his way out into the streets, and marveled at how the city had been completely leveled. He finally made his way to the river bank, where he lay in a state of shock amid the dead and dying.

Finally, a party of seminarians from the Jesuit novitiate outside the city located him and carried him back for medical treatment. During the next three weeks, he endured a daily, hour-long probing with scissors and razor blade without anesthetic to remove the splinters. Radiation kept his wounds from healing almost three months.

"It was an act of Providence which saved me where 200,000 others died," he explained. "I am living proof that Providence can intervene to prevent a repetition of Hiroshima. The times are evil but not desperate. Men of good will are needed now as never before."

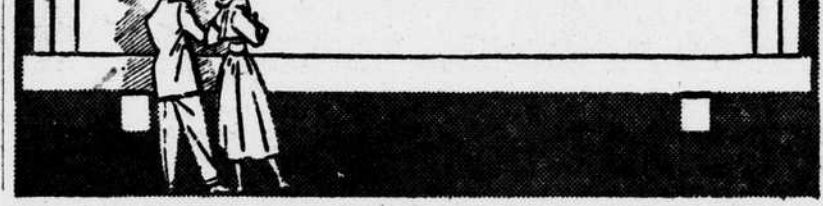
Father Schiffer plans to return to Japan as soon as he finishes his studies in labor-management relations at Fordham University in New York. One of his best friends and advisers is Robert A. Lewis, personnel director for a New Jersey candy company.

Sculptor Repays Loans For Iwo Jima Memorial

Two GI loans, used to start the preliminary work on the Marine Corps Memorial Association's statue of the Iwo Jima flag raising, have been repaid by Sculptor Felix G. DeWeldon, the Veterans Administration announced today.

The 110-foot statue is expected to be placed above an underground museum, holding Marine trophies, to be completed on the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway in 1952. Mr. DeWeldon is completing preliminary work on the statue in a Washington studio, VA said.

The agency said Mr. DeWeldon had made GI loans of \$4,000 and \$8,000 to buy equipment, and that the loans were repaid last month. In addition, VA spokesmen said, the sculptor has invested other thousands of dollars in the huge job. He will be reimbursed by the memorial group from funds raised in a campaign.



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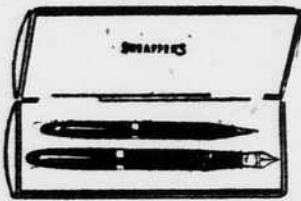
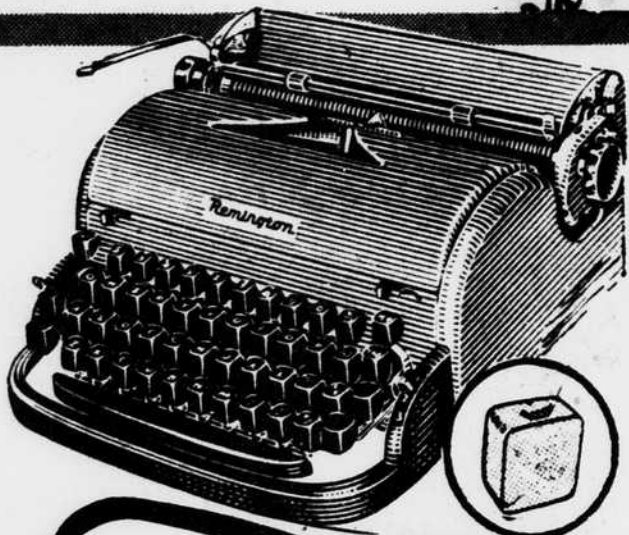
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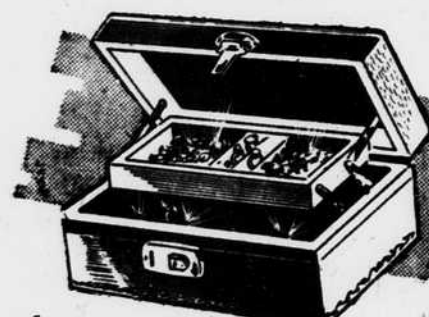


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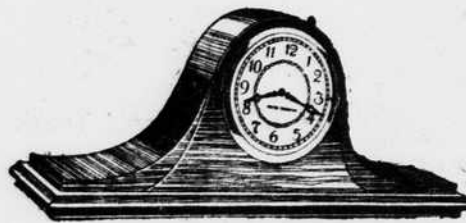
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